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A/RES/45/78
14 January 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 67

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/45/789)]

45/78. Question of Antarctica

A

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Recalling its resolutions 38/77 of 15 December 1983, 39/152 of 17 December 1984, 40/156 A and B of 16 December 1985, 41/88 A and B of 4 December 1986, 42/46 A and B of 30 November 1987, 43/83 A and B of 7 December 1988 and 44/124 A and B of 15 December 1989,

Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the final documents adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 1/ the second meeting of States of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic, held at Abuja, Nigeria, from 25 to 29 June 1990, 2/ and the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Cairo from 31 July to 5 August 1990, 3/

1/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

2/ See A/45/474, annex.

3/ See A/45/421-S/21797, annex IV, res. 17/19-E.

READEX FICHE

Taking into account the debates on this item held since its thirty-eighth session,

Reaffirming the principle that the international community is entitled to information covering all aspects of Antarctica and that the United Nations should be made the repository for all such information in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/88 A, 42/46 B, 43/83 A and 44/124 B,

Conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the international community in terms, inter alia, of international peace and security, environment, its effects on global climatic conditions, economy and scientific research,

Conscious also of the interrelationship between Antarctica and the physical, chemical and biological processes that regulate the total Earth system,

Welcoming the increasing recognition of the significant impact that Antarctica exerts on the global environment and ecosystems and of the need for a comprehensive agreement on the protection and conservation of the Antarctic environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems,

Sharing the concern over the environmental degradation of Antarctica and its impact on global environment expressed at the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Nairobi from 6 to 31 August 1990,

Welcoming the increasing support for the establishment of Antarctica as a nature reserve or world park to ensure the protection and conservation of its environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems for the benefit of all mankind,

Welcoming also the increasing support within the international community for the banning of prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica,

Welcoming the initiative taken by some Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties in promoting Antarctica as a nature reserve or world park and the banning of prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica,

Welcoming also the ongoing trend in acknowledging the need for internationally co-ordinated scientific research stations in Antarctica in order to minimize unnecessary duplication and logistical support facilities,

Welcoming further the increasing awareness of and interest in Antarctica shown by the international community, and convinced of the advantages to the whole of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

Affirming its conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue for ever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

Reaffirming that the management and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international co-operation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

Convinced of the need to prevent or minimize any negative impact of human activity resulting from the large number of scientific stations and expeditions in Antarctica on the environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems,

Taking into account all aspects pertaining to all areas covered by the Antarctic Treaty, 4/

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica, 5/

1. Expresses its regret that, despite the numerous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General or his representative has not been invited to the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, including the special session of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting at Santiago from 19 November to 7 December 1990, and urges once again the Consultative Parties to invite the Secretary-General or his representative to their future meetings;

2. Calls upon the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to deposit information and documents covering all aspects of Antarctica with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on his evaluations thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

3. Expresses the conviction that any move to draw up a comprehensive environmental convention on the conservation and protection of Antarctica and its dependent and associated ecosystems as well as establishing a nature reserve or world park must be negotiated with the full participation of the international community, and in this regard stresses that this should be pursued within the context of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

4. Urges all members of the international community to support all efforts to ban prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica and to ensure that all activities are carried out exclusively for the purpose of peaceful scientific investigation and that all such activities ensure the maintenance of international peace and security in Antarctica and the protection of its environment and are for the benefit of all mankind;

4/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778.

5/ A/45/458 and A/45/459.

5. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive study with the help of relevant United Nations programmes and specialized agencies such as the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, using available data and resources, on the establishment of a United Nations-sponsored station in Antarctica with a view to promoting co-ordinated international co-operation in scientific research for the benefit of mankind, particularly the importance of Antarctica to the global environment and ecosystems, as well as to act as an early-warning system on climate change and accidents, and submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

6. Urges all States Members of the United Nations to co-operate with the Secretary-General and to continue consultations on all aspects relating to Antarctica;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report, using available data and resources, on the state of the environment in Antarctica and its impact on the global system to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

66th plenary meeting
12 December 1990

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/83 B of 7 December 1988 and 44/124 A and B of 15 December 1989,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Noting with regret that the racist apartheid régime of South Africa, which has been suspended from participation in the General Assembly of the United Nations, has continued to participate in the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties,

Recalling the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its fiftieth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 17 to 22 July 1989, 6/

Recalling also the final document on Antarctica adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 1/

6/ See A/44/603, annex I.

Recalling further that the Antarctic Treaty 4/ is, by its terms, intended to further the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting that the policy of apartheid practised by the racist minority régime of South Africa, which has been universally condemned, constitutes a threat to regional and international peace and security,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, 7/ and expresses deep concern that no concrete measures have been taken in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 44/124 A;

2. Views with concern the continuing participation of the apartheid régime of South Africa in the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties;

3. Appeals once again to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to take urgent measures to exclude the racist apartheid régime from participation in the meetings of the Consultative Parties at the earliest possible date, and invites them to inform the Secretary-General of the measures taken regarding the provisions of the present resolution;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report in this regard to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, taking into account the concern expressed in paragraph 1 of the present resolution;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

66th plenary meeting
12 December 1990

7/ A/45/458.

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A/RES/45/79
14 January 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 68

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/45/790)]

45/79. Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including its resolution 44/125 of 15 December 1989,

Recognizing the importance of intensifying and promoting peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region and of strengthening further the economic, commercial and cultural links in the region,

Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in the promotion of peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region,

Expressing concern at the persistent tension and continuing military operations and activities in parts of the Mediterranean region and the consequent threat to peace and security,

Welcoming the favourable developments in international political relations, and expressing the hope that the enhancement of security and co-operation, particularly in Europe, will also have a positive impact on the Mediterranean region,

Reaffirming also the responsibility of all States to conform in their actions to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning

Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, 1/

Recognizing the efforts realized so far and the determination expressed by the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations aimed at promoting peace, security and co-operation in the region,

Recognizing also the desire of the Mediterranean countries that the needs of their region be taken into account in ongoing and future negotiations relating to international security and disarmament, particularly on the enhancement of security and co-operation in Europe,

Recognizing further the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and the need to ensure that all actions are aimed towards the promotion of peace, security and co-operation in the region,

Noting with satisfaction the greater awareness in Europe of the need for interdependent action in the Mediterranean with the aim of contributing to reducing tension, improving good-neighbourly relations and fostering political, cultural and economic progress in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on this item, 2/

1. Reaffirms that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. Welcomes the determination expressed by Mediterranean countries to intensify their efforts to promote dialogue and co-operation in the region in order to achieve through peaceful settlement just and lasting solutions to those crises which still threaten regional peace and stability, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and the right of peoples under colonial or foreign domination to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. Takes note of the conclusions of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Mediterranean Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers in June 1990, 3/ and of the expressed conviction that an open and sustained dialogue as well as intensive co-operation would increase mutual understanding and trust, thus promoting stability, security and peace in the region;

1/ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

2/ A/45/713.

3/ See A/45/357.

4. Expresses satisfaction at the progress achieved within the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which has increased substantially the possibilities of implementing the commitment made by the States participating in the Conference to intensify political dialogue and co-operation with all Mediterranean countries in order to strengthen security and work towards the relaxation of tensions and the settlement of crises and conflicts, as well as towards the development of co-operation in the Mediterranean;

5. Takes note of the report of the Meeting on the Mediterranean of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held at Palma de Mallorca in September and October 1990, which, inter alia, reaffirmed the commitment of the States participating in the Conference to, and stressed the continuing relevance of, the provisions of the Conference concerning security and co-operation in the Mediterranean;

6. Notes the widespread support among Mediterranean countries for the proposal to convene a conference on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean and their willingness to open regional consultations with a view to creating the appropriate conditions for the initiation of such a process;

7. Notes also the progress already achieved in other initiatives promoting security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, in particular, the 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held at Nicosia in April 1990, the first Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Western Mediterranean, held at Rome in October 1990, the Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Balkan States, held at Tirana in October 1990, and the meetings of the Arab Maghreb Union;

8. Emphasizes the need for just and peaceful settlement of persistent problems in the region, for respecting and safeguarding the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries and peoples of the Mediterranean and for full adherence to the principles of non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

9. Urges all States to co-operate with the Mediterranean States in the intensification of existing forms of co-operation in various fields, with a view to reducing tension, promoting peace and security and ensuring stability, prosperity and support for democratic processes, economic reforms and development in the countries of the region in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

10. Encourages efforts to eliminate the economic and social disparities in levels of development and to promote durable growth of the Mediterranean States, particularly the developing States of the region, which are displaying sustained efforts to adjust and which are making sacrifices in a still unfavourable environment;

11. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to pay close attention to the question of peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region and, if

requested to do so, to render advice and assistance to Mediterranean countries in their concerted efforts in promoting peace, security and co-operation in the region;

12. Invites all Member States, as well as the relevant regional organizations and subregional groupings, to communicate to the Secretary-General concrete ideas and suggestions concerning this issue, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region".

66th plenary meeting
12 December 1990

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A/RES/45/80
10 January 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 69

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/45/791)]

45/80. Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security

The General Assembly,

Conscious that the present stage of mankind's development is distinctive for its technological, economic and political changes, making overall progress possible towards the building of a more peaceful, secure, just, equitable, democratic and humane world,

Stressing that disarmament, the relaxation of international tension, respect for international law and for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, especially the principles of the sovereign equality of States and the peaceful settlement of disputes and the injunction to refrain from the use or threat of use of force in international relations, respect for the right to self-determination and national independence, economic and social development, the complete eradication of colonialism, apartheid and all other forms of racism and racial discrimination, aggression and occupation, and respect for human rights are closely related and provide the basis for international peace and security,

Welcoming the recent positive changes in the international order, characterized by the end of the cold war and the relaxation of tensions on the global level and the emergence of a new spirit governing international relations,

Welcoming also, in this context, that a number of conflicts and hostilities are being resolved through negotiations in an atmosphere of understanding and co-operation,

Welcoming further the wide-ranging dialogue between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, with its positive effects on

world developments, and expressing its hope that this process will continue and expand with a view to promoting further international peace and security and co-operation,

Expressing the hope that the positive trends that started in Europe, where a new system of security and co-operation is being built through the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, will continue and will encourage similar trends in other parts of the world,

Expressing at the same time its serious concern over the persisting conflicts and problems and the new threats to international peace and security and its support for all efforts towards a peaceful and just resolution of hotbeds of crisis in the world, including further military disengagement,

Stressing the need for the strengthening of international security through disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament leading up to the elimination of all nuclear weapons, and restraints on the qualitative and quantitative escalation of the arms race,

Stressing also the growing importance of the relationship between disarmament and development in current international relations,

Considering that there can be no stable and lasting peace and security in the world without the resolution of grave economic problems, particularly the requirements of economic development of developing countries,

Considering also in this context that the economic situation in the developing countries has deteriorated dramatically, widening further the gap between developed and developing countries, especially in the least developed ones,

Considering further that the protection of the environment has emerged as a major global concern, dramatically emphasizing the growing interdependence of the world, which calls for urgent co-operative measures ensuring sustainable and environmentally sound development,

Stressing that the promotion of freedom and human rights is one of the basic objectives of the world community,

Deeply concerned that racism and discrimination based on colour, creed, ethnic origin, culture or way of life are still practised,

Strongly emphasizing that apartheid is a particular and repugnant form of institutionalized racism, which civilized nations have rightly condemned as a crime against humanity,

Reaffirming that the United Nations is the fundamental instrument for regulating international relations and resolving international problems and that its main organs, particularly the Security Council, are responsible for the maintenance and effective promotion of international peace and security,

1. Reaffirms the continuing validity of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, 1/ and calls upon all States to contribute effectively to its implementation;

2. Reaffirms also that all States must abide strictly, in their international relations, by their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations;

3. Emphasizes that, until an enduring and stable universal peace based on a comprehensive, viable and readily implementable structure of international security is established, peace, the achievement of disarmament and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means continue to be the first and foremost task of the international community;

4. Calls upon all States to refrain from the use or threat of use of force, intervention, interference, aggression, foreign occupation and colonial domination or measures of political and economic coercion which violate the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and security of other States, as well as the permanent sovereignty of peoples over their natural resources;

5. Also calls upon all States to seek, through utilization of the means provided for in the Charter, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the elimination of the focal points of crisis and tension, which constitute a threat to international peace and security;

6. Stresses the need for further strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security and promoting respect for international law, as well as in economic and social development and progress for the benefit of mankind;

7. Welcomes the recent active involvement of the Security Council, in pursuance of its primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security, and expresses the hope that it will continue in this spirit to address other threats to international peace and security;

8. Urges all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, to take further immediate steps aimed at promoting and using effectively the system of collective security as envisaged in the Charter, as well as halting effectively the arms race with the aim of achieving general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and implementing the recommendations and decisions contained in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly; 2/

9. Emphasizes that the sustained growth and development of the world economy, particularly that of the developing countries, and the solution of their economic problems, are basic prerequisites for the strengthening of international peace and security;

1/ Resolution 2734 (XXV).

2/ Resolution S-10/2.

10. Stresses the need for a balanced development of the world economy and for redressing the present asymmetry and inequality in economic and technological development between the developed and developing countries through, inter alia, a more broad-based management of the world economy to reflect the interests of all countries;

11. Considers that respect for and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all aspects and the strengthening of international peace and security mutually reinforce each other;

12. Reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples under colonial domination, foreign occupation or racist régimes and their inalienable right to self-determination and independence;

13. Reaffirms also the responsibility of the United Nations on the question of the dismantling of apartheid, and calls for the full implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, 3/ adopted by the General Assembly at its sixteenth special session;

14. Reaffirms further that the democratization of international relations is an imperative necessity, and stresses its belief that the United Nations offers the best framework for the promotion of this goal;

15. Invites Member States to submit their views on the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, particularly in the light of recent developments in the field of international security and co-operation, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the basis of the replies received;

16. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

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12 December 1990

3/ Resolution S-16/1, annex.

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A/RES/45/81
10 January 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 70

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/45/792)]

45/81. Implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace

The General Assembly,

Aware of the overwhelming desire to maintain peaceful and secure conditions for the social and economic development of all nations,

Recalling the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, contained in its resolution 33/73 of 15 December 1978,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General, 1/

1. Recognizes the impact that the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace has exerted in efforts designed to promote international peace and security and to raise public awareness of their importance for the future of nations;

2. Commends all Governments, the United Nations and the concerned organizations of its system and other international as well as national organizations - both governmental and non-governmental - for their valuable contribution to the implementation of the principles and objectives of the Declaration;

3. Invites all States to guide themselves in their activities by principles enshrined in the Declaration aimed at establishing, maintaining and strengthening a just and durable peace for present and future generations;

1/ A/45/575.

4. Appeals to all States to continue utilizing the United Nations potential to strengthen international peace and security, confidence and understanding as well as mutually beneficial co-operation among States in the common interest of all mankind.

66th plenary meeting
12 December 1990

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General Assembly

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A/RES/45/82
5 February 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 25

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/45/L.11/Rev.2)]

45/82. Co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the promotion of co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, in particular resolution 44/7 of 17 October 1989,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, 1/

Recalling also the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations which encourage activities through regional arrangements for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Noting with appreciation the desire of the League of Arab States to consolidate and develop the existing ties with the United Nations in all areas relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, and to co-operate in every possible way with the United Nations in the implementation of United Nations resolutions relating to Lebanon and to the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East,

Aware of the vital importance for the countries members of the League of Arab States of achieving a just, comprehensive and durable solution to the Middle East conflict and the question of Palestine, the core of the conflict,

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1/ A/45/481 and Add.1.

Realizing that the strengthening of international peace and security is directly related, inter alia, to disarmament, decolonization, self-determination and the eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Taking note with satisfaction of the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the joint meeting of the representatives of the organizations of the United Nations system and the representatives of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, held at Geneva from 18 to 20 July 1990, 2/

Convinced that the maintenance and further strengthening of co-operation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States contribute to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recognizing the need for closer co-operation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in realizing the goals and objectives set forth in the Strategy for Joint Arab Economic Development adopted by the Eleventh Arab Summit Conference, held at Amman from 25 to 27 November 1980, 3/

Having heard the statement of the Acting Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States of 25 October 1990 on co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, 4/ and having noted the emphasis placed therein on follow-up actions and procedures on the recommendations in the political, social and cultural fields adopted at the meetings between the representatives of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations and the secretariats of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system, held at Tunis from 28 June to 1 July 1983, 5/ at Geneva from 29 June to 1 July 1988 6/ and from 18 to 20 July 1990, 2/ as well as on the recommendations relating to political matters contained in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

1. Takes notes with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the follow-up action taken by him to implement the proposals adopted at the meetings between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations held at Tunis, Amman and Geneva;

2/ A/45/481/Add.1.

3/ See A/35/719-S/14289, annex.

4/ See A/45/PV.35.

5/ A/38/299 and Corr.1, sect. V.

6/ A/43/509/Add.1.

3. Expresses its appreciation also to the Secretary-General for his efforts to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and commends the League of Arab States and its Tripartite High Committee for their endeavours to resolve the crisis in Lebanon;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen co-operation with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States for the purpose of implementing United Nations resolutions relating to the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East in order to achieve a just, comprehensive and durable solution to the Middle East conflict and the question of Palestine, the core of the conflict;

5. Requests the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, within their respective fields of competence, further to intensify their co-operation towards the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the strengthening of international peace and security, disarmament, decolonization, self-determination and the eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social and cultural fields;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to continue to co-ordinate the follow-up action to facilitate the implementation of the proposals of a multilateral nature adopted at the Tunis meeting in 1983, and to take appropriate action regarding the multilateral proposals adopted at the Amman meeting in 1985, and at the Geneva meetings in 1988 and 1990, including the following:

(a) Promotion of contacts and consultations between the counterpart programmes of the United Nations system;

(b) Setting up joint sectoral inter-agency working groups;

8. Calls upon the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system:

(a) To continue to co-operate with the Secretary-General and the programmes, organizations and agencies concerned within the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in the follow-up of multilateral proposals aimed at strengthening and expanding co-operation in all fields between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

(b) To maintain and increase contacts and consultations with the counterpart programmes, organizations and agencies concerned regarding projects of a bilateral nature, in order to facilitate their implementation;

(c) To associate whenever possible with organizations and institutions of the League of Arab States in the execution and implementation of development projects in the Arab region;

(d) To inform the Secretary-General, not later than 15 May 1991, of the progress of their co-operation with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, in particular the follow-up action taken on the multilateral and bilateral proposals adopted at the Tunis, Amman and Geneva meetings;

9. Decides that, in order to intensify co-operation and for the purpose of review and appraisal of progress as well as to prepare comprehensive periodic reports, a general meeting between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States should take place once every two years and inter-agency sectoral meetings should be organized annually on areas of priority and wide importance in the development of the Arab States and the meeting of the sectoral co-ordinators should be held during 1991, the time and place to be determined by consultations between the United Nations and the League of Arab States;

10. Recommends that the United Nations and the other organizations of the United Nations system should utilize Arab expertise to the extent possible in projects undertaken in the Arab region;

11. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in co-operation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to encourage periodic consultations between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to review and strengthen co-ordination mechanisms with a view to accelerating implementation and follow-up action of multilateral projects and proposals adopted by the general meeting of the two organizations;

12. Recommends that a joint meeting between representatives of the organizations of the United Nations system and of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations should be organized in 1992 in order to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the two-year plan of action adopted at the 1990 meeting;

13. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States".

67th plenary meeting
13 December 1990

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A/RES/45/83
5 February 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 35

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/45/L.35, A/45/L.36, A/45/L.37 and Add.1)]

45/83. The situation in the Middle East

A

The General Assembly,

Having discussed the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East",

Reaffirming its resolutions 36/226 A and B of 17 December 1981, ES-9/1 of 5 February 1982, 37/123 F of 20 December 1982, 38/58 A to E of 13 December 1983, 38/180 A to D of 19 December 1983, 39/146 A to C of 14 December 1984, 40/168 A to C of 16 December 1985, 41/162 A to C of 4 December 1986, 42/209 A to D of 11 December 1987, 43/54 A to C of 6 December 1988 and 44/40 A to C of 4 December 1989,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981, 508 (1982) of 5 June 1982, 509 (1982) of 6 June 1982, 659 (1990) of 31 July 1990, and other relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General of 15 October 1990, 1/ 12 November 1990 2/ and 26 November 1990, 3/

1/ A/45/595.

2/ A/45/709-S/21929.

3/ A/45/726-S/21947.

Reaffirming the need for continued collective support for the decisions adopted by the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference, held at Fez, Morocco, on 25 November 1981 and from 6 to 9 September 1982, 4/ which were confirmed by subsequent Arab summit conferences, including the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference held at Casablanca, Morocco, from 23 to 26 May 1989,

Reiterating its previous resolutions on the question of Palestine and its support for the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people,

Considering that the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/42 of 6 December 1989 and other resolutions related to the question of Palestine, would contribute to the promotion of peace in the region,

Welcoming all efforts contributing towards the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people through the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, in accordance with the United Nations resolutions relating to the question of Palestine and to the situation in the Middle East,

Welcoming also the world-wide support extended to the just cause of the Palestinian people and the other Arab countries in their struggle against Israeli aggression and occupation in order to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East and the full exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable national rights, as affirmed by previous resolutions of the General Assembly on the question of Palestine and on the situation in the Middle East,

Gravely concerned that the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories still remain under Israeli occupation, that the relevant resolutions of the United Nations have not been implemented and that the Palestinian people is still denied the restoration of its land and the exercise of its inalienable national rights in conformity with international law, as reaffirmed by resolutions of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 5/ to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories,

Reaffirming also all relevant United Nations resolutions which stipulate that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under the Charter of the

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4/ See A/37/696-S/15510, annex. For the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-seventh Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1982, document S/15510, annex.

5/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

United Nations and the principles of international law and that Israel must withdraw unconditionally from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories,

Reaffirming further the imperative necessity of establishing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region, based on full respect for the Charter and the principles of international law,

Gravely concerned also at the continuing Israeli policies involving the escalation and expansion of the conflict in the region, which further violate the principles of international law and endanger international peace and security,

Stressing once again the great importance of the time factor in the endeavours to achieve an early comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East,

1. Reaffirms its conviction that the question of Palestine is the core of the conflict in the Middle East and that no comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region will be achieved without the full exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable national rights and the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories;

2. Reaffirms that a just and comprehensive settlement of the situation in the Middle East cannot be achieved without the participation on an equal footing of all the parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people;

3. Declares once more that peace in the Middle East is indivisible and must be based on a comprehensive, just and lasting solution of the Middle East problem, under the auspices of the United Nations and on the basis of its relevant resolutions, which ensures the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories, and which enables the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to exercise its inalienable rights, including the right to return and the right to self-determination, national independence and the establishment of its independent sovereign State in Palestine, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations relating to the question of Palestine, in particular General Assembly resolutions ES-7/2 of 29 July 1980, 36/120 A to F of 10 December 1981, 37/86 A to D of 10 December 1982, 37/86 E of 20 December 1982, 38/58 A to E of 13 December 1983, 39/49 A to D of 11 December 1984, 40/96 A to D of 12 December 1985, 41/43 A to D of 2 December 1986, 42/66 A to D of 2 December 1987, 43/54 A to C of 6 December 1988, and 43/175 A to C, 43/176, 43/177 of 15 December 1988 and 44/42;

4. Considers the Arab peace plan adopted unanimously at the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference, held at Fez, Morocco, on 25 November 1981 and from 6 to 9 September 1982, 4/ which was confirmed by subsequent Arab summit conferences, including the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference held at Casablanca, Morocco, from 23 to 26 May 1989, as well as relevant efforts and action to implement the Fez plan, as an important contribution towards the realization of the inalienable

rights of the Palestinian people through the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

5. Condemns Israel's continued occupation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and demands the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of Israel from all the territories occupied since 1967;

6. Rejects all agreements and arrangements which violate the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and contradict the principles of a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem to ensure the establishment of a just peace in the area;

7. Deplores Israel's failure to comply with Security Council resolutions 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980 and 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980 and General Assembly resolutions 35/207 of 16 December 1980 and 36/226 A and B of 17 December 1981; determines that Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem and to declare it as its "capital" as well as the measures to alter its physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and status are null and void and demands that they be rescinded immediately; and calls upon all Member States, the specialized agencies and all other international organizations to abide by the present resolution and all other relevant resolutions and decisions;

8. Condemns Israel's aggression, policies and practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory and outside this territory, including expropriation, establishment of settlements, annexation and other terrorist, aggressive and repressive measures, which are in violation of the Charter and the principles of international law and the relevant international conventions;

9. Strongly condemns the imposition by Israel of its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, its annexationist policies and practices, the establishment of settlements, the confiscation of lands, the diversion of water resources and the imposition of Israeli citizenship on Syrian nationals, and declares that all these measures are null and void and constitute a violation of the rules and principles of international law relative to belligerent occupation, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

10. Considers that the agreements on strategic co-operation between the United States of America and Israel, signed on 30 November 1981, and the continued supply of modern arms and matériel to Israel, augmented by substantial economic aid, including the Agreement on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area between the two Governments, have encouraged Israel to pursue its aggressive and expansionist policies and practices in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories, and have had adverse effects on efforts for the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East and pose a threat to the security of the region;

11. Calls once more upon all States to put an end to the flow to Israel of any military, economic, financial and technological aid, as well as of human resources, aimed at encouraging it to pursue its aggressive policies against the Arab countries and the Palestinian people;

12. Strongly condemns the continuing and increasing collaboration between Israel and the racist régime of South Africa, especially in the economic, military and nuclear fields, which constitutes a hostile act against the African and Arab States and enables Israel to enhance its nuclear capabilities, thus subjecting the States of the region to nuclear blackmail;

13. Reaffirms its call for convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing, and that the Conference should be effective with full authority, in order to achieve a comprehensive and just solution based on the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories, and the attainment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with the United Nations resolutions relevant to the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East;

14. Endorses the call for setting up a preparatory committee, within the framework of the Security Council, with the participation of the permanent members of the Council, to take the necessary action to convene the Conference;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council periodically on the development of the situation and to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a comprehensive report covering the developments in the Middle East in all their aspects.

67th plenary meeting
13 December 1990

B

The General Assembly,

Having discussed the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East",

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 15 October 1990, 1/

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming its resolutions 36/226 B of 17 December 1981, ES-9/1 of 5 February 1982, 37/123 A of 16 December 1982, 38/180 A of 19 December 1983, 39/146 B of 14 December 1984, 40/168 B of 16 December 1985, 41/162 B of 4 December 1986, 42/209 C of 11 December 1987, 43/54 B of 6 December 1988 and 44/40 B of 4 December 1989,

Recalling its resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, in which it defined an act of aggression, inter alia, as "the invasion or attack by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State, or any military occupation, however temporary, resulting from such invasion or attack, or any annexation by the use of force of the territory of another State or part thereof" and provided that "no consideration of whatever nature, whether political, economic, military or otherwise, may serve as a justification for aggression",

Reaffirming the fundamental principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Reaffirming once more the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 5/ to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories,

Noting that Israel's record, policies and actions establish conclusively that it is not a peace-loving Member State and that it has not carried out its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting also that Israel has refused, in violation of Article 25 of the Charter, to accept and carry out the numerous relevant decisions of the Security Council, in particular resolution 497 (1981), thus failing to carry out its obligations under the Charter,

1. Strongly condemns Israel for its failure to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and General Assembly resolutions 36/226 B, ES-9/1, 37/123 A, 38/180 A, 39/146 B, 40/168 B, 41/162 B, 42/209 C, 43/54 B and 44/40 B;

2. Declares once more that Israel's continued occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan and its decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan constitute an act of aggression under the provisions of Article 39 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX);

3. Declares once more that Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan is illegal and therefore null and void and has no validity whatsoever;

4. Declares all Israeli policies and practices of, or aimed at, annexation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and of the other occupied Arab territories to be illegal and in violation of international law and of the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. Determines once more that all actions taken by Israel to give effect to its decision relating to the occupied Syrian Arab Golan are illegal and invalid and shall not be recognized;

6. Reaffirms its determination that all relevant provisions of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907 6/ and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and calls upon the parties thereto to respect and ensure respect for their obligations under these instruments in all circumstances;

7. Determines once more that the continued occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan since 1967 and its annexation by Israel on 14 December 1981, following Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on that territory, constitute a continuing threat to international peace and security;

8. Strongly deplores the negative vote by a permanent member of the Security Council which prevented the Council from adopting against Israel, under Chapter VII of the Charter, the "appropriate measures" referred to in resolution 497 (1981) unanimously adopted by the Council;

9. Further deplores any political, economic, financial, military and technological support to Israel that encourages it to commit acts of aggression and to consolidate and perpetuate its occupation and annexation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories;

10. Firmly emphasizes once more its demand that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind forthwith its illegal decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Syrian Arab Golan, which resulted in the effective annexation of that territory;

11. Reaffirms once more the overriding necessity of the total and unconditional withdrawal by Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories, which is an essential prerequisite for the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East;

12. Determines once more that Israel's record, policies and actions confirm that it is not a peace-loving Member State, that it has persistently violated the principles contained in the Charter and that it has carried out neither its obligations under the Charter nor its commitment under General Assembly resolution 273 (III) of 11 May 1949;

13. Calls upon all Member States to put an end to the flow to Israel of any military, economic, financial and technological aid, as well as human resources, aimed at prolonging Israeli occupation of the Arab territories or encouraging Israel to pursue its aggressive policy against the Arab countries and the Palestinian people;

6/ See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907 (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

14. Urges non-member States to act in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution;

15. Calls upon the specialized agencies and other international organizations to conform their relations with Israel to the terms of the present resolution;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

67th plenary meeting
13 December 1990

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/120 E of 10 December 1981, 37/123 C of 16 December 1982, 38/180 C of 19 December 1983, 39/146 C of 14 December 1984, 40/168 C of 16 December 1985, 41/162 C of 4 December 1986, 42/209 D of 11 December 1987, 43/54 C of 6 December 1988 and 44/40 C of 4 December 1989, in which it determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which had altered or purported to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, in particular the so-called "Basic Law" on Jerusalem and the proclamation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, were null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,

Recalling Security Council resolution 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, in which the Council, inter alia, decided not to recognize the "Basic Law" and called upon those States that had established diplomatic missions at Jerusalem to withdraw such missions from the Holy City,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 15 October 1990, 1/

1. Determines that Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem is illegal and therefore null and void and has no validity whatsoever;

2. Deplores the transfer by some States of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem in violation of Security Council resolution 478 (1980), and their refusal to comply with the provisions of that resolution;

3. Calls once more upon those States to abide by the provisions of the relevant United Nations resolutions, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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13 December 1990

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/45/84
14 February 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 88

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/744)]

45/84. Adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonialist régime of South Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 39/15 of 23 November 1984, 41/95 of 4 December 1986 and 43/92 of 8 December 1988,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for his updated report; 1/

2. Expresses its thanks to all Governments and organizations that supplied the Special Rapporteur with information;

3. Takes note with satisfaction of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/22 of 27 February 1990, 2/ in which the Commission invited the Special Rapporteur:

(a) To continue to update, subject to annual review, the list of banks, transnational corporations and other organizations assisting the racist régime of South Africa, giving such details regarding enterprises listed as he may consider

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1/ A/45/552, annex.

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1990/22 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

necessary and appropriate, including explanations of responses, if any, and to submit the updated report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

(b) To use all available material from other United Nations organs, Member States, specialized agencies and other relevant sources in order to indicate the volume, nature and adverse human consequences of the assistance given to the racist régime of South Africa;

(c) To intensify direct contacts with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the Centre against Apartheid of the Secretariat, with a view to consolidating mutual co-operation in updating the report;

4. Calls upon all Governments:

(a) To co-operate with the Special Rapporteur in making the report even more accurate and informative;

(b) To disseminate the updated report and to give its contents the widest possible publicity;

5. Calls upon all Governments and organizations to maintain sanctions against the racist régime of South Africa until the total dismantlement of the apartheid system has been achieved, in conformity with the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989 and contained in the annex thereto;

6. Invites the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-third session and the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session to consider the updated report;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/92, to make available to the Special Rapporteur two economists to help him to develop his analysis and documentation on specific cases of special importance;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General to give the Special Rapporteur all the assistance that he may require in the exercise of his mandate, with a view to intensifying direct contacts with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the Centre against Apartheid, and to consolidating mutual co-operation in updating his report;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to bring the updated report of the Special Rapporteur to the attention of Governments whose national financial institutions continue to deal with the régime of South Africa, and to call upon them to provide the Special Rapporteur with any information or comments they may wish to present on the matter;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to contact the Government of South Africa with a view to enabling the Special Rapporteur to undertake a visit to South Africa on special mission within the perspective of the next update of the present report;

11. Invites the Secretary-General to give the updated report of the Special Rapporteur the widest distribution and publicity as a United Nations publication;

12. Decides to examine at its forty-seventh session, as a matter of high priority, the item entitled "Adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist régime of South Africa", in the light of any recommendations which the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee against Apartheid may wish to submit to it;

13. Requests that the Special Rapporteur submit his updated report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

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GENERAL

A/RES/45/85
14 February 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 89

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/745)]

45/85. Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/135 of 15 December 1989, as well as its other relevant resolutions,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1990/21 of 23 February 1990 and 1990/25 of 27 February 1990, 1/ and Economic and Social Council decision 1990/226 of 25 May 1990, by which the Council approved the recommendations of the Task Force on Computerization for computerizing the human rights treaty system, 2/

Reaffirming that the effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights is of major importance to the efforts made by the Organization, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 3/ to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

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1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1990/22 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

2/ See E/CN.4/1990/39, annex.

3/ Resolution 217 A (III).

Considering that the effective functioning of treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations instruments on human rights is indispensable for the effective implementation of such instruments,

Reaffirming its responsibility to ensure the proper functioning of treaty bodies established pursuant to instruments adopted by the General Assembly and, in this connection, further reaffirming the importance of:

(a) Ensuring the effective functioning of systems of periodic reporting by States parties to these instruments;

(b) Securing sufficient financial resources to overcome existing difficulties with the effective functioning of treaty bodies;

(c) Addressing the question of reporting obligations and that of financial implications whenever elaborating any further instruments on human rights,

Recognizing that the effective implementation of instruments on human rights not only enhances international accountability in relation to the promotion and protection of human rights, but also provides States parties with a valuable opportunity to review policies and programmes affecting the promotion and protection of human rights and to make any appropriate adjustments,

Expressing concern about the continuing and increasing backlog of reports on implementation by States parties of United Nations instruments on human rights and about delays in consideration of reports by the treaty bodies,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General 4/ on progress achieved in enhancing the effective functioning of the treaty bodies, pursuant, inter alia, to the conclusions and recommendations of the second meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, held at Geneva from 10 to 14 October 1988, 5/

Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, held at Geneva from 1 to 5 October 1990, 6/

Bearing in mind the study by the independent expert 7/ on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of existing and prospective bodies established under United Nations instruments on human rights,

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4/ A/44/539.

5/ See A/44/98, annex.

6/ See A/45/636, annex.

7/ See A/44/668, annex.

1. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies aimed at streamlining, rationalizing and otherwise improving reporting procedures, and supports the continuing efforts in this connection by the treaty bodies and the Secretary-General within their respective spheres of competence;

2. Once again expresses its satisfaction with the study by the independent expert on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of existing and prospective bodies established under United Nations instruments on human rights, which contains several recommendations on reporting and monitoring procedures, servicing and financing of supervisory bodies and long-term approaches to human rights standard-setting and implementation mechanisms, and which was presented to the Commission on Human Rights for detailed consideration at its forty-sixth session;

3. Endorses the recommendations of the Task Force on Computerization 2/ appointed by the Secretary-General to prepare a study on computerizing the work of the treaty-monitoring bodies, with a view to increasing efficiency and facilitating compliance by States parties with their reporting obligations and the examination of reports by the treaty bodies;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to give high priority to establishing a computerized data base to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the treaty bodies;

5. Recalls the report of the Secretary-General 8/ to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights showing the extent of overlapping issues dealt with in international instruments on human rights, which will assist efforts to reduce, as appropriate, duplication in the supervisory bodies of issues raised with respect to any given State party, and asks the Secretary-General to draw the report to the attention of the other treaty bodies;

6. Encourages the Secretary-General to proceed as soon as possible with the circulation of the detailed reporting manual to the various States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments, to assist them in the fulfilment of their reporting obligations;

7. Again urges States parties to make every effort to meet their reporting obligations and to assist, individually and through meetings of States parties, in identifying and implementing ways of further streamlining and improving reporting procedures as well as enhancing co-ordination and information flow between the treaty bodies and with relevant United Nations bodies, including specialized agencies;

8. Welcomes the emphasis placed by the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and by the Commission on Human Rights on the importance of technical assistance and advisory services and, therefore:

8/ E/C.12/1989/3.

(a) Endorses the request of the Commission that the Secretary-General report regularly to it on possible technical assistance projects identified by the treaty bodies;

(b) Invites the treaty bodies to give priority attention to identifying such possibilities in the regular course of their work of reviewing the periodic reports of States parties;

9. Endorses the recommendations of the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on the need to ensure financing and adequate staffing resources for the operations of the treaty bodies and, with this in mind:

(a) Reiterates its request that the Secretary-General review the need for adequate staffing resources in regard to the various treaty bodies;

(b) Requests that the Secretary-General report on this question to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

10. Calls upon all States parties to meet fully and without delay their financial obligations under the relevant instruments on human rights, and requests the Secretary-General to consider ways and means of strengthening collection procedures and making them more effective;

11. Welcomes the fact that at its forty-sixth session the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1990/25, noted that the General Assembly could consider alleviating the financial difficulties of treaty bodies, inter alia, by the temporary allocation of necessary funds by way of advances out of the regular budget of the United Nations, which would be reimbursed from the contributions received within the same budget year, this procedure being repeated until such time as a permanent solution to such difficulties can be implemented;

12. Requests the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to consider administrative and budgetary measures to alleviate the current financial difficulties of the treaty bodies and thus guarantee their regular functioning and to report on these measures to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session;

13. Emphasizes that the adoption of any administrative and budgetary measures shall not prejudice the duty of States parties under United Nations human rights instruments to meet all their financial obligations pursuant to such instruments;

14. Notes with interest that the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies recommended in October 1990 that the General Assembly take appropriate measures to ensure the financing of each of the committees from the regular budget of the United Nations; 9/

9/ See A/45/636, annex, para. 15.

15. Invites the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to maintain communication and dialogue with each other on common issues and problems and, to this end, requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to convene a further meeting of the persons chairing the treaty bodies at a time to be established;

16. Decides to give priority consideration at its forty-sixth session to the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing treaty bodies, in the light of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights, under the item entitled "Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments".

68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990